

## Message Text

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16  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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P R 050846Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3293

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 262

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 4562

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, SZ

SUBJ: SWISS GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA

1. SWISS HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE (EMBASSY TRANSLATION). THE SWISS GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, INSPIRED BY THE DESIRE TO DEVELOP RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SWISS CONFEDERATION AND THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA BASED ON RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, NON-INTERFERENCE AND EQUALITY OF RIGHTS, HAVE DECIDED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 1976.

2. POL/ECON COUNSELOR CALLED ON STAUCH, THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT'S DESK OFFICER FOR AFRICA. STAUCH SAID THAT FOLLOWING SWISS RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA ON FEBRUARY 20, 1976, THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL CONTACTS IN BERN AND IN ANGOLA WITH THE MPLA. AS A RESULT OF THESE CONTACTS THE MPLA AGREED TO ISSUANCE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SWISS WILL ACCREDIT AN AMBASSADOR FROM A NEIGHBORING BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRY; ANGOLA WILL ACCREDIT THE ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR  
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TO ITALY, SOURCE DID NOT KNOW WHEN ANGOLANS WILL

ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN ROME, OR WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY PERMANENT ANGOLAN MISSION IN SWITZERLAND. SWISS ARE SEARCHING FOR AN APPROPRIATE OFFICER TO SERVE AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. IF ALL GOES WELL HE MIGHT REACH ANGOLA IN JANUARY 1977.

3. SWISS HAVE ABOUT 90 SWISS CITIZENS RESIDING IN ANGOLA, AND 10 WITH DUAL CITIZENSHIP. SWISS STILL DO SOME BUSINESS THERE, AND LOOK UPON ANGOLA AS A COUNTRY WITH GREAT ECONOMIC POTENTIAL. SWISS RECOGNITION AND ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS CONSISTENT WITH SWISS POLICY OF MAINTAINING OFFICIAL-LEVEL CONTACT WITH AS MANY NATIONS AS POSSIBLE.

4. DURING CONVERSATION STAUCH RELATED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM A SWISS DOCTOR RESIDENT IN ANGOLA. THE DOCTOR TOLD HIM THAT LARGE AREAS OF ANGOLA ARE NOT CONTROLLED BY THE MPLA, AND THAT THERE ARE UNITA ROADBLOCKS WHICH MPLA FORCES HAVE NOT CHOSEN OR HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PASS. THE DOCTOR HAD BEEN TOLD THAT GUERILLAS RECENTLY DESTROYED FIFTEEN MILES OF THE BENGUELA RAILWAY IN THE NORTH.  
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